

the importance, the necessity, and the benefits of multiculturalism. I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to publicly praise this man for his many achievements.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 73, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. MELVIN L. WATT

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 24, 1999

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, a granddaughter of slaves and a native of Henderson, North Carolina, was born in June of 1883.

During the time Dr. Brown was born, African-Americans were leaving the south to move north, seeking a more tolerable racial climate and better economic opportunities. Boston was considered a mecca for progressive African-Americans. Dr. Brown's mother moved the family to Cambridge, Massachusetts—a move that was followed by 19 other members of the Hawkins family.

Dr. Brown was a natural leader at an early age: at 12 she organized a kindergarten department at her church and at 14 she was chosen as orator for her minister's 15th anniversary. Dr. Brown went on to attend English High School until she entered Salem Teacher's College in Salem, Massachusetts. She ultimately received a Bachelor's degree from Wellesley College.

In 1901 Dr. Brown returned to North Carolina, teaching at Bethany Institute in Sedalia. When Bethany Institute was forced to close its doors after only one year of operation, Dr. Brown began the difficult process of founding, developing, and operating a school for local rural African American youth. This school would become the Alice Palmer Memorial Institute. Alice Palmer Memorial Institute evolved from an agricultural and manual school to a fully accredited, nationally recognized preparatory school, graduating over 1,000 students during her 50-year presidency.

Dr. Brown was a founding member of the North Carolina State Federation of Negro Women's Clubs, an organization dedicated to the betterment of African-American womanhood. She also served two terms as president for the North Carolina Teachers Association, where she pursued three primary objectives: (1) the upgrading of North Carolina's educational facilities, (2) a higher level of communication between the State of North Carolina and African American teachers and (3) the instilling of a high sense of racial pride in African-American teachers.

Much of Dr. Brown's success can be attributed to the founding of the Palmer Memorial

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Institute but she was also involved in various community and civic organizations.

When Dr. Brown returned to Sedalia in 1901 only two families owned their farms. By 1930, 95 percent of the families were successful through the Home Ownership Association she founded. Four years later she implemented a movement geared toward "urban-farm" living, a program that encouraged farmers to live off their crops.

Dr. Brown was also instrumental in the survival of Efland Home for Wayward Girls. Recognizing the school's hardship, Dr. Brown requested that the North Carolina General Assembly fund and maintain the home. Ultimately the State granted \$50,000 for the establishment of a new facility for the training of disadvantaged African-American girls.

Dr. Brown died on January 11, 1961 in Greensboro, North Carolina after having received numerous accolades for her work in education and civic service, including honorary degrees from Livingstone College, North Carolina Central University, Howard University and a LL.D from Wilberforce University.

In 1987 the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial opened as a state historic site in North Carolina and is the only one to honor an African American.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET—FISCAL YEAR 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 68) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2000 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2009:

Mr. FORD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Spratt substitute, and in strong opposition to this unfair procedure and this sham Republican budget.

It is unfair that the majority is only permitting 40 minutes of debate on viable budget alternatives; why are we telling the American people that this important resolution deserves such limited debate?

The Republican budget resolution fails in many important areas: it fails to protect Social Security; unrealistically slashes domestic spending; and contains huge tax cuts that will be targeted towards the wealthy and will explode in future years.

I am supportive of the Spratt Alternative for a number of reasons: First, it saves 100% of the Social Security surplus while extending the solvency of the program; it also extends the solvency of the Medicare Trust Fund until 2020. Finally, it provides increases to programs that are a priority for me: class size reduction, child care, Welfare-to-Work, and Urban Empowerment Zones.

The Spratt Alternative also pays down \$146 billion more in public debt over 10 years than the Republican resolution.

Let's put this in real terms:

Paying down the debt is the best way to put more money in our taxpayer's pockets. If we pay down the debt, interest rates drop. What does this mean?

A 2% dip in interest rates drops the mortgage payment on a \$115,000 home from \$844 to \$689—a decrease of \$155 each month!

For a small business that takes out a five-year, \$200,000 loan would save \$2,256 per year, and \$11,280 over the life of the loan.

This, my friends, is REAL monty and will make a difference to each of our constituents.

In 1998, we spent 14% of our budget on interest payments on our national debt. That money could instead be used to cut taxes, or invest in education.

Let's continue to do the hard work now to secure our future.

Vote "no" on the Republican budget, and support the Spratt alternative.

HONORING THE HARP & SHAM-
ROCK MARCHING BAND FOR OUT-
STANDING ACHIEVEMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate a group of young women who have honored my district by participating in both the New Haven and Milford annual Saint Patrick's Day Parades. Locally supported by their parents and neighbors, the Harp & Shamrock Marching Band traveled from Ireland to join the New Haven community's celebration.

The Harp & Shamrock Marching Band originated with a music class at the Scoil Bhride girl's primary school and today is organized and run by a dedicated committee of parents and volunteers. With the strong support of their community, and uniforms made by a dedicated group of parents and supporters, I am so proud to join them in their celebration of Ireland's patron saint.

Playing instruments ranging from whistles and accordions to bell lyres and percussions, these forty-three young women keep Irish culture and history alive. These young women, all between the age of 8 and 18, show a rare dedication and commitment to a demanding level of competition. Representing their town, county, province, and country in national events, they continue to proudly promote the Irish culture and tradition. They have been honored for fourteen consecutive years as Offaly Co. Champions in addition to their 1996 All-Ireland Championship. They have also been to London in 1996 and Manchester in 1997 and 1998 to take part in their St. Patrick's Day parades.

I am proud to take this opportunity to thank the Harp & Shamrock Marching Band for joining the New Haven and Milford communities in their Saint Patrick's Day Parades. It was a pleasure to join them at both events and I congratulate them on their hard work and success at bringing the Irish culture to each community they visit.